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Bill Lee, Purdue honored

CIA director speaks to Pierce grads

By JAMES McPARLAND

RINDGE, N.H.—Central Intelligence Agency Director George H. W. Bush said yesterday he was worried "about the credibility and the commitment of our country as seen through the eyes of foreign countries—friend and foe alike."

Speaking at Franklin Pierce College commencement exercises, Bush, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, said many countries, including China, "are looking at us and trying to decide where we are at" after 200 years of freedom of speech, religion and enterprise.

CHINA IS asking itself if the USA is committed after 200 years of democracy or whatever one calls our magnificent system," stated Bush, a former U.S. Envoy to China.

"Many other countries are asking the same questions. These are questions all of us should ask."

Bush, who received an honorary doctor of laws degree at the commencement, noted that both China and the Soviet Union are committed to world socialism. Cuba and Russia displayed credibility in Angola while the USA did not, he said.

"The administration made a commitment to the Roberto Savimbia factions in Angola, much like Cuba and Russia made a commitment to the MPLA in Angola," the former Texas congressman asserted.

"Our commitment proved to be a commitment without credibility. Theirs was credible. Angola hurt us some in Africa but it hurt elsewhere, too.

"JAPAN, A jillion miles away from Angola, wonders whether we'll stand firm. China, concerned about Soviet troops on its northern border, also wonders.

"Our Asian allies in Southeast Asia say we didn't keep that commitment (Angola) and will we keep a commitment to help them stay free. Our NATO allies talk about isolation and withdrawal.

"It is a worldwide problem," stressed Bush.

Bush said he was not suggesting this country was dedicated to intervention, "nor am I suggesting we must export our system to other countries.

"I am saying we have obligations to countries that want to be free.

"WE ARE A world power and we properly have worldwide obligations."

Franklin Pierce College, a four-year liberal arts school, also awarded honorary degrees to humanitarian Roy Neiman, Frank Purdue, the chicken king, C. Robertson Trowbridge, publisher of Yankee Magazine and the Old Farmer's Almanac, and Red Sox pitcher Bill Lee. The latter was not at the commencement because of illness.